

Police and Crime Commissioner's February Newsletter

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Message sent by

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February Newsletter

In this month's newsletter I have provided updates on the following:

- Budget Proposals
- Chief Constable Recruitment
- 'Cutting of the sod' ceremony, Barrow
- Funding Reminder
- Forthcoming Events

Budget Proposals for 2014/2015

I can report that my budget proposals for a 1.93% increase in the police element of council tax will be implemented for financial year 2014/2015. The cost of the increase works out at less than 8p per week per household - £3.96 per year for a band D property. I appreciate that this will add to the burden of other increases in living costs that householders have to live with, but I believe this is vital in order to secure the long-term future of the Constabulary. Failure to go ahead will mean that the Constabulary's income will be reduced by a further £2 million over the next four years, and as a consequence the level of policing service will be eroded.

I cannot ignore the fact that the view most regularly expressed to me by members of the public is that they want to see police on our streets. I have a very strong obligation to try and ensure that that is possible. My full media statement can be read on my [website](#).

Chief Constable Recruitment

I have just launched a recruitment drive for a permanent Chief Constable, to replace Temporary Chief Constable Bernard Lawson who has decided to retire this July. Full information and a copy of my media release can be found on my [website](#)

Cutting of the Sod Ceremony, Barrow

31 January marked the start of work on the site of the new Barrow Police Station, in Andrews Way, and this was marked with a small ceremony. I was very pleased to welcome John Woodcock MP, who did the honours of cutting the first sod. David Atkinson from contractors Thomas Armstrong also attended on what was a very cold, wet and windswept day! The £8.1million building project will be starting in the next few days and it is proposed that the new police station will be finished in the summer 2015. Click on this link to see some pictures from the [day](#)

Funding Reminder

A brief reminder about three funds available to communities: The Property Fund, Community Fund and Innovation Fund are all still open for applications. Have a look at the [website](#) for full information, guidance and qualifying criteria.

Forthcoming Events

Going forward, I am planning a number of engagement events throughout the year, aiming to visit as many parts of the county as I can in order to reach a wide range of communities, people and groups. Look out for dates and venues on my website. I am also planning to introduce online meetings, which will be themed around certain subjects, such as policing priorities, budgets, etc. and will enable people to interact with me and share their views from the comfort of their own home. Again, information on this will be published on my website soon. We are looking to host the first meeting of this type in March.

Diary Dates

- 26 February - Attending North East Allerdale Neighbourhood Forum, Thursby
- 27 February - Crimestoppers Youth Seminar, Kendal
- 4 March - Eden Local Committee Meeting, Penrith
- 4 March - Transforming Rehabilitation Local Stakeholder Event, Kendal
- 5 March - Public Executive Board Meeting - Penrith
- 5 March - Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale Neighbourhood Forum, Barbon
- 6 March - Business Networking Event, Kendal
- 6 March - University of Cumbria Chaplaincy Annual Lecture, Carlisle
- 7 March - Breakfast Meeting, Carlisle Youth Zone
- 11 March - Central Lakes Neighbourhood Forum, Windermere
- 12 March - Civic Reception, Carlisle
- 13 March - Raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation Conf, Penrith
- 14 March - Love Barrow Awards, Barrow-on Furness
- 18 March - Meetings with Director of Public Prosecutions, Manchester
- 21 March - Cumbria Leaders Board, Penrith
- 21 March - Cumbria Chamber of Commerce Business Dinner, Kendal
- 22 March - High Sheriff Dinner, Kendal
- 26 March - Installation of High Sheriff, Carlisle
- 27 March - Civic Dinner and Community Awards, Carlisle

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